

we leave in October, to please, let us work together in a bipartisan way to make sure that when we leave, that no one is dependent on food stamps in the military.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a poem that I think is very appropriate for all of us in the Congress, as well as anyone in this country that maybe has not served in the military, to remember that the freedoms that we enjoy are guaranteed by those in uniform.

The poem was written by Father Dennis O'Brien, United States Marine Corps.

"Who has given us freedom of the press?
It is the soldier, not the poet.
Who has given us freedom of speech?
It is the soldier, not the campus organizer.
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate?
It is the soldier,
Who salutes the flag,
Who serves beneath the flag,
Whose coffin is draped by the flag,
Who allows the protester to burn the flag."

Mr. Speaker, I close with that, because, again, I want to remind the Members of the United States House of Representatives that we do have over 6,000 men and women in uniform which are on food stamps, and I would hope we would do everything possible to make sure when we leave again in October that we have very few in the military on food stamps.

□ 1800

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) switch places in the queue, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) has an important dinner this evening, if we might do that.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD LASCH, FAITHFUL SERVANT TO THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for arranging the switching of the order. It is very gracious of him.

The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of course will duly note whatever I say on the floor tonight, although perhaps few others will. But I feel compelled to

come to the floor and share with my colleagues a deep sense of loss that I feel and that I think most every Member of this body will feel that our friend and our very faithful colleague or servant, Ronald Lasch, has chosen to enter retirement.

Ron was a great friend of all of us in this body, a great helpmate to all of us in this body. There are few that I have served with or worked with as a Member of the Congress who have been more effective in allowing me to do my job better than I would otherwise have been able to do it than Ron Lasch.

I remember Ron Lasch also as someone who was an ad hoc, but very, very effective and important, staff person or advisor to the members of the North Atlantic Parliamentary Group who represent this country in the meetings of the North Atlantic Assembly of NATO. His advice, his wisdom, his breadth of knowledge on the issues that we were debating and discussing was always something that we could look to and learn from. He was, indeed, a remarkable part of how this institution works and works better; and he will be very definitely and sincerely missed by so many of us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) for yielding to me. I came to the floor for another purpose. Not only did I not know that Ron Lasch was retiring, I did not know we were having this Special Order, and my friend from Michigan asked if I would like to insert my oars into these waters lauding Ron Lasch.

Mr. Speaker, some call him the floor manager, some call him the Great Poobah or the Great Mogul. Oftentimes, Mr. Speaker, I would go to Ron, I would come in here perhaps from a committee hearing and I would be running late and I would go to him and I would say Ron, what is this vote, my dear friend? And he would instinctively grab his wallet. When you are calling me "dear friend" you are up to no good. But I never saw him in any way become impatient with us, and that is the same, Mr. Speaker, for the staff generally.

Last month I was at an event in the intellectual property community in this town with ORRIN HATCH, Senator HATCH, the gentleman from the other body, from Utah. At that hearing I said to those people, oftentimes we take staff for granted. Mr. Speaker, we have talked about it before. Staff is very essential to the well being and to the efficient functioning of this body. Sometimes we think it does not function efficiently; but I think, on balance, it does, and Ron Lasch is the epitome of that role. I know he will be missed, as the gentleman from Virginia just said. He will be sorely missed here.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON) for inviting me to share these few thoughts.

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, we are all delighted to be here and wish for Ron the very best in his retirement, but we want him to know how very much we will miss him.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina). The gentleman's comments are well taken.

EFFORTS TO COMBAT ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House, for the first time ever, tackled the public health threat from antibiotic-resistant bacteria in our food supply.

On Monday, during debate on the agriculture appropriations bill, the House passed my amendment to dedicate an additional \$3 million to the work of the Food and Drug Administration on antibiotic resistance resulting from the use of antibiotics in livestock.

Scientists and public health officials have known for decades that using the same antibiotics for food animals as for people could cause problems. Sixteen years ago my esteemed colleagues, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), introduced legislation to curtail the use of human antibiotics in animals. But this amendment, Mr. Speaker, marks the first time this House has taken legislative action to stop antibiotic resistance from agricultural overuse of these precious drugs.

Mr. Speaker, we thought we were winning the war against infectious diseases. With the introduction of antibiotics in the 1940s, humans gained an overwhelming advantage in the fight against bacteria. But this war is far from won. Last month, the World Health Organization issued a ringing warning against antibiotic resistance. Around the world, microbes are mutating at an alarming rate into new strains that fail to respond to drugs.

The mapping of the human genome project has been lauded far and wide in the past several weeks. Indeed, mapping the genome is a triumph that will lead to many breakthroughs in health care. But in the meantime, we are slowly, and in some cases, rapidly losing our precious antibiotics and putting ourselves at risk for diseases that we thought we had licked: tuberculosis, typhoid, cholera, dysentery and on and on and on.

We need to develop new antibiotics, to be sure; but we cannot give up on the ones we have and the ones that have been effective for decades. By